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AN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN FRANCE

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Ten years ago a number of philanthropic gentlemen at Grenoble, France, induced the administrative board of the University of Grenoble to make provision for a special vacation session during the months of July, August, September, and October. It was the belief of these gentlemen that a city so exceptionally located as Grenoble, and with a splendid university plant idle during the summer months, furnished the opportunity of doing a needed piece of popular educational work—viz., furnish courses in the French language and literature to foreign students and teachers who might care to spend the summer vacation in the French Alps.

Grenoble, it will be recalled, is the ancient capital of Dauphiny. It is a city of seventy-five thousand inhabitants, and is situated at the juncture of the Isère and Drac rivers, on the western slopes of the French Alps. About it tower splendid mountain ranges and peaks, which are snow-covered throughout the year, and which attain elevations from eight to ten thousand feet; and within easy reach of Grenoble are the Grand Chatreuse, the Grand Goulets, Uriage-le-Bain, le Grève, and some of the other most picturesque sights in the Alpine system.

The University of Grenoble is one of the historic seats of learning in France. It was originally founded by a bull of Benedict XII in 1339, which was granted at the request of Humbert II, Count of Viennois. Its existence during the mediaeval period was precarious, but it ranks today as one of the best of the provincial French universities. It has faculties of letters, science, and law, and about three hundred students during the academic year, and with more than that number during the summer term.

The summer session is primarily for foreigners. Courses

are offered in the elements of the French language—phonetics, reading, and composition; French literature and history; geography of the French Alps; local arts and industries, and other subjects calculated to interest foreign teachers and students. There are courses suited to learners of all stages of progress in the language, and many illustrated lectures are given. A special feature is made of evening socials; and Saturdays are reserved for excursions among the mountains and to near-by places of historic interest.

The course of the past summer may be given as fairly typical of the work of the summer session. There were eight lectures on the relation of the French language to the civilization of France by Professor Besson, of the University of Grenoble; eight lectures on French lyric poetry by Mr. Brunet, of the *lycée* at Algiers; eight lectures on French fiction during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by Professor Joliet, of the University of Bonn; eight lectures by Professor Marillot, of the University of Grenoble, on French fiction during the first half of the nineteenth century; eight lectures on the romantic drama by Mr. Brunet, and two lectures on Victor Hugo by Professor Chabert, of the University of Grenoble. There were, in addition, lectures on the contemporary French dramatic writers, Gustave Flaubert, Paul Herviere, and other literary topics.

There were two courses of ten lectures each on French history; the first, on Michelet, by Professor de Crozals, and a splendid course on modern history—perhaps the most helpful course offered during the summer—by Mr. Mauric, of the Grenoble *lycée*. The course in geography included six lectures on the Mediterranean countries by Mr. Chabrol, of the Vaucausson School of Commerce, and seven on the French Alps by Mr. Henri Ferrand, of Grenoble. There were several lectures on contemporary science, and two noteworthy courses on the fine arts—the first on the art of Grenoble and Dauphiny by Mr. Marcel Reymond, the distinguished art critic and historian, and the second on music by Mr. Allix, a discriminating lover of the tonal art. Mr. Salmon, of the local commercial school, gave a series of lectures and lessons on commercial French; Mr. Rosset con-

ducted a phonetic laboratory, and gave individual and class instruction in the syntax, morphology, and phonetics of French; Mr. Varenne gave a series of lessons on French vocabularies; Mr. Hardouin conducted composition classes, and there were classes in the translation of German, English, Italian, and Russian into the French. The German translation classes were conducted by Messrs. Besson, Herzog, and Joliet; the English classes, by Messrs. Mathias, Banjard and Jayet; the Italian classes, by Messrs. Hauvette, de Crozals, Guichard, and Matton; and the Russian classes, by Madame Koschkine. Thus, it will be seen, a very wide range of instruction was offered to those seeking to perfect their knowledge of the French language and literature.

The summer school is under the immediate direction of Mr. Marcel Reymond and a local committee of patronage composed of philanthropic citizens in Grenoble and professors in the different faculties of the university. But the extraordinary success of the vacation courses is very largely due to the devotion and untiring energy of Mr. Marcel Reymond. In the early history of the movement he was one of the most popular and helpful of the lecturers; but in recent years the administration of the school has consumed so much of his time that he has felt compelled to limit his lecture work to the art of Grenoble and Dauphiny, in which he is a recognized authority.

The expense of the school is moderate. The tuition for the summer is only eight dollars, and one may obtain good board in French families and boarding-houses for thirty dollars a month. One may enter or leave the school at any time. Those, however, who wish the certificate of the summer course must attend the school at least two months and take the required examinations. American teachers who contemplate taking the course may get the circulars of the summer school by addressing Mr. Marcel Reymond, president of the Committee of Patronage, Grenoble, France.

Three courses of the past summer were so significant that they justify special mention. I know of no course of lectures on French literature—Paris not excepted—to compare with the

excellencies of the lectures by Professor Marillot. He is one of the best literary lecturers in France. The *laboratoire de phonétique* of Mr. Rosset is one of the unique features of the school. Phonographs and all other conceivable appliances are utilized in teaching French to foreigners, with results that are surprising. One of the most helpful courses of the past summer was by Mr. Mauric, a professor in the local *lycée* and a comparatively young man; but his grasp of his subject, his mastery of the pedagogic art, and his quiet and reposeful manner easily gave him first rank among the lecturers of the last session.

As the title of the article suggests, the summer school at Grenoble is distinctly international. Of the 435 students in attendance the past summer, 181 were German, 62 Italian, 55 Russian, 42 English, 11 Scotch, 11 Irish, 26 American, 10 Austrian, 8 Polish, 8 Swiss, 7 Bulgarian, 5 Czech (Bohemian), 5 Swedish, with a scattering of Greeks, Armenians, Servians, Canadians, Danes, Brazilians, Argentinians, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Finlanders, Roumanians, etc. For the student of education, Grenoble is a good place to study comparative school systems, since a large proportion of the students are teachers in elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities in their respective countries.